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MONDAY
MARCH 8, 1954

I talked to Jim Conant on the telephone this morning about the possibility of securing the Chancellor's agreement that, if necessary, he will shorten his stay in Turkey and attend a Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Turner Cameron called on me. He is leaving tomorrow for Indo-China and will be stationed at Hanoi.

We had a lunch of "the Club" at Madame Esmond's. She had just returned after two months in the United States. The André de Vilmorins, Marie Louise Bousquet, the Waldners, Madame Billotte, and Pierre de Montesquieu were the others there, as well as Hannah Gubby. I had not seen Hannah for some years. She used to have wonderful collections in England when she shared his beautiful houses with her cousin Philip Sassoon.

Michael Heilperin of Fortune came to see me to talk over various European economic problems.

Tommy, Ridgway, and myself met with Doug Dillon, John Hughes, Bob Joyce, and Ted Achilles this afternoon to see if we could concert the answer to a telegram from the Department as to how the U. S. declaration on assurances should be handled if and when it is finally cleared in Washington. The paper giving the Governmental view is to be taken up today with Congressional leaders. The others approved, with a couple of minor changes, our suggested draft on this subject. It was sent out as follows:

R

"SECSTATE, WASHINGTON 3252.

"Hughes, Bruce and I believe we must keep pressure on French to undertake definite schedule for ratification of EDC Treaty. Accordingly, in view possibility Congressmen may disclose all or part of Presidential statement, we suggest I proceed in following manner as soon as you notify me that Congressional consultation is completed.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CZC DATE 7-1-81
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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"1. Inform Bidault that President has now ap[illegible]ed statement. I would say Washington believes French Government will be pleased with it, pointing out that statement covers all points suggested by Bidault in draft proposal given to us by Alphand and in three important respects, i.e. integration of EDC and NATO forces, sharing new weapons and techniques, and consideration of extension right of withdrawal from NATO beyond 20 years, goes appreciably beyond his suggestions. I will make clear that we have gone as far as executive authority permits and that statement is now final after Congressional consultations.

"2. Advise Bidault that US Government has decided statement should be withheld for present since US Government does not intend to make it except in connection with definite and final move of French Government to start debate.

"3. Remind Bidault we firmly believe date of debate should be publicly requested by government in next few days if it is to be held before Easter, and point out that other NATO countries are anxiously awaiting statement on US assurances. US Government wishes at an appropriate time once the antecedent conditions have been met to advise other NATO countries it intends to make such a statement in connection with its NATO obligations.

"4. Tell Bidault that meanwhile I have been instructed to inform him of substance of statement in strict confidence. I will then let him read statement but state that, for above reasons, I am unable to leave a copy with him until French Government has told us how and when it intends to proceed with debate.

"Comment. We must anticipate possibility French Government will use statement as basis to ask for more specific guarantees particularly on maintaining US forces in Europe. Other NATO nations and Fed Rep will almost certainly welcome statement as important and generous. Accordingly, after we involve other NATO nations it will be more difficult for French to ask for changes. DILLON."

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Dillon looks well and says he is completely recovered from his operation, which took place in November. He returned here Saturday.

I had a word with André de Staercke, who is shortly going down to spend a few days with Salazar. He did not have an opportunity to talk to Ismay last week regarding a volunteer British division or brigade in the European Army but is doing so today.

A messenger arrived at the house tonight from the German Embassy giving me a copy of Maurice Schumann's proposal for a Saar settlement to be submitted to the Chancellor and Bidault tomorrow. I would consider this proposal unacceptable to the Germans. It accepts all the concessions which they have disclosed a willingness to make and then apparently adds further conditions to the previous French stand.

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